



# **PSC NEWS**

## **Missouri Public Service Commission**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PSC SENDS RULES ON TREE-TRIMMING AND INSPECTION STANDARDS TO SECRETARY OF STATE**

*Public Comment Period And Hearing To Follow*

JEFFERSON CITY---The Missouri Public Service Commission today voted to send to the Secretary of State two proposed rules intended to provide increased reliability of electric service in Missouri. Proposed rules regarding electric infrastructure inspections and tree-trimming will now be published in the Missouri Register. The Commission's vote was 4-1.

"These proposed rules attempt to strike a balance that increases electric service reliability while keeping electric rates low," said PSC Chairman Jeff Davis. "These rules were developed following weather related outages and in response to customer concerns regarding reliability of electric service."

The proposed infrastructure rules include:

- ✓ Specific requirements for frequency of inspections of electric utility infrastructure such as a requirement that poles over 15 years of age be inspected no less frequently than every 10 years;
- ✓ Requirements that the electric companies file specific compliance plans for inspections and record-keeping by January 2008; and
- ✓ Provisions for assessing penalties for failure to comply with rule requirements.

The proposed tree-trimming rules include:

- ✓ Specific requirements for clearances between electric wires and vegetation including visual inspection at least once every two years of all energized conductors to determine whether vegetation management is needed;
- ✓ Requirements that the electric companies develop vegetation management standards, guidelines and procedures consistent with the proposed rule and submit those documents to the PSC by January 2008; and
- ✓ Provisions for assessing penalties for failure to comply with rule requirements.

The proposed rules are expected to be published in the Missouri Register in mid-July which begins the 30-day public comment period. A hearing on the proposed rules will likely be held in mid-August with a decision on permanent rules by late November.